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IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled):

15. (Currently amended): A method of collecting substances comprising

positioning liquid containing substances in the vicinity of a first electrode having a

vacant space therein and a second electrode, said vacant space substantially surrounded

by said first electrode such that the periphery of the vacant space is not defined in part or

at all by the second electrode,

subjecting said liquid containing substances to influence by a negative

dielectrophoretic force generated by application of voltage to said first electrode, and

collecting said substances subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic

force in the vicinity of said vacant space of said first electrode.

16. (Currently amended): The method according to claim 15 wherein said first

electrode is on a substrate and a lid is provided adjacent to said <u>first</u> electrode in such that

a gap is formed between said first electrode and said lid, and said liquid containing

substances subjected to influence by said negative dielectrophoretic force is provided in

said gap to allow the substances to contact with the <u>first</u> electrode.

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17. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 16 wherein said

substance subjected to influence by said negative dielectrophoretic force is a complex of

a substance binding to a substance to be measured, a substance subjected to influence

by a negative dielectrophoretic force, and the substance to be measured which binds to

said substance binding to a substance to be measured.

18. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein said

substance subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force is a granular

substance subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force.

19. (Currently amended): A method of detecting substances comprising

positioning liquid containing substances in the vicinity of an electrode having a

vacant space therein and a second electrode, said vacant space substantially surrounded

by said first electrode such that the periphery of the vacant space is not defined in part or

at all by the second electrode,

subjecting said liquid containing substances to influence by a negative

dielectrophoretic force generated by application of voltage to said first electrode,

collecting said substances subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic

force in the vicinity of said vacant space of said first electrode, and optically detecting said

substance.

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20. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 19 wherein said

substances subjected to influence by said negative dielectrophoretic force is a complex of

a substance binding to a substance to be measured, a substance subjected to influence

by a negative dielectrophoretic force and the substance to be measured which binds to

said substance binding to a substance to be measured.

21. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 20 wherein said

substance subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force is a granular

substance subjected to influence by a negative dielectrophoretic force.

22-28 (Cancelled):

29. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 15, wherein the liquid

containing substances is positioned above the vacant space of the first electrode.

30. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 15, wherein the liquid

containing substances is positioned by causing the liquid to flow about the <u>first</u> electrode.

31. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 30, wherein the liquid

containing substances is positioned by causing the liquid to flow above the electrode.

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32. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 30, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned by causing the liquid to flow below the <u>first</u> electrode.

33. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 15, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned below the vacant space of the <u>first</u> electrode.

34. (Canceled).

35. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 15, wherein the substances are collected above the position of the vacant space.

36. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 15, wherein the substances are collected below the position of the <u>vacant</u> space.

- 37. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 19, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned above the vacant space of the <u>first</u> electrode.
- 38. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 19, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned by causing the liquid to flow about the <u>first</u> electrode.

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39. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 38, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned by causing the liquid to flow above the <u>first</u> electrode.

40. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 38, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned by causing the liquid to flow below the <u>first</u> electrode.

41. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 19, wherein the liquid containing substances is positioned below the vacant space of the <u>first</u> electrode.

42. (Canceled).

43. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 19, wherein the substances are collected above the position of the <u>vacant</u> space.

44. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 19, wherein the substances are collected below the position of the <u>vacant</u> space.